

NEW SHOREHAM SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

Block Island School

November 17, 2008

7:00 p.m.

The New Shoreham School Committee met in open session on Monday, November 17, 2008, in the media center of the Block Island School. Superintendent Leslie Ryan called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The following members were present: Shea Butcher, Annie Hall, Sean McGarry, William Padien, and Richard Tretheway. Davida Irving and William Anderson were also in attendance.

Annual Meeting

William Padien was nominated for chairperson by Annie Hall; the nomination was seconded by Shea Butcher. Being no further nominations, the vote was 5-0 to approve William Padien as chairperson.

Sean McGarry was nominated for secretary by William Padien; the nomination was seconded by Annie Hall. Being no further nominations, the vote was 5-0 to approve Sean McGarry as secretary.

Approval of Minutes

A motion (Padien, Hall) to approve the minutes of the meeting held on October 20, 2008, as presented carried with a vote of 5-0.

Richard Tretheway stated there is some confusion about approving executive session minutes. If they are not approved on a monthly basis, who would feel confident approving them if they were needed several years later? Mr. Padien mentioned that they had been instructed by the attorney at one of the last meetings to not approve sealed minutes. He asked Mrs. Ryan to research the situation and report back to them at the next meeting.

Reports

Nancy Cole presented the fiscal report through October 31, 2008. She stated that with one-third of the year behind us approximately 33 percent of the budget has been expended. There is a balance of \$82,000 in the operating account and a fund balance of approximately \$65,000. Mrs. Cole also submitted a sheet comparing electricity costs over the last few years. Committee members were pleased with the conservation measures implemented at the school (reducing the number of lights in the offices), but noted the largest increase over the years was the fuel adjustment costs. To make it easier to calculate the usage, Shea Butcher suggested that the school ask Block Island Power Company to read the meter on the same day each month. Mr. Padien expressed concern over the \$30,000 already spent from the \$32,000 building maintenance line item. Mrs. Cole will make adjustments to that line item as the installation of the cafeteria sink was included here instead of capital improvements. A motion (Padien, Butcher) to approve the fiscal report through October 31,

2008, as presented carried with a vote of 5-0.

Mr. McGarry reported that he attended the mathematics summit sponsored by RIDE, RIASC, and Governor Carcieri on November 16.

Dr. Irving reported on the following:

- She and six teachers (Sue Gibbons, Bill Young, Jim Rondinone, Maureen Flaherty, Nancy Greenaway, and Joanne Warfel), had a very productive day working on curriculum with the department heads at Portsmouth High School.**
- The open forum to discuss the lunch program has been scheduled for 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, November 19.**
- The School Improvement Team will meet at 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, November 20.**

Mrs. Ryan reported that she had submitted a letter to Mr. DiSilva at RIDE to begin the process for reimbursement for the renovation work that needs to be done. She received an email from him stating that an improvement committee will need to be established first.

Mrs. Ryan submitted a new model to help expedite School Committee meetings and a hierarchy of accountability. She will now collect reports from the principal, athletic director, fiscal clerk, etc. and incorporate them into the superintendent's report. She will also report on any staffing or district-wide initiatives. The hierarchy showed the superintendent reporting to the school committee as a

body. The principal, special education director, administrative assistant, fiscal clerk, and athletic director will report directly to the superintendent. The teachers, teacher assistants, school office staff, maintenance supervisor, food service director and helpers, and the principal's advisory committee will report directly to the principal. The psychologist, occupational therapist, and IEP and 504 staff will report to the special education director.

Mr. Tretheway was unaware that Mrs. Ryan was going to suggest a new agenda model or submit a hierarchy. He stated that he would like to see the School Committee back on track and not circumvent the chain of command. The School Committee should not cross examine staff members during open meetings or give them directives to accomplish, but should only be dealing with the superintendent. He feels the School Committee should not be involved in the day-to-day running of the school. The superintendent should direct the principal and allow her to run the school. He agreed that Mrs. Ryan should give the various reports each month, including the fiscal report because the superintendent needs to have a firm grasp of the financial standing of the school/district. Old business should be in response to directives given to the superintendent. Mr. Tretheway also referenced the letter sent by the teachers' association requesting a meeting to discuss job descriptions of the various administrators. It was suggested that each committee member sit with the superintendent to discuss his/her thoughts on what each job description should include. Mr. Padien noted that there are strict

guidelines for each position and which jobs could or could not be delegated. Kristine Monje reported that the teachers' association would like to work with Mrs. Ryan, Dr. Irving, and the School Committee in developing the job descriptions, but understands that final decisions lie with the School Committee. Mr. Padien stated he would like to have this accomplished by the end of the calendar year.

Old Business

Dr. Irving reported that only one bid was received in response to the latest request for proposals to provide technical support for the school's technology program and it was even more expensive than the previous ones. She felt that the school needed to go in a different direction, but had not had a chance to meet with the technology committee. The School Committee requested that a solution be submitted at its next meeting.

A maintenance contract to provide seasonal cooling and heating services was submitted by Trane. The discussion included whether the proposal could be signed if it went into another fiscal year, whether to include the servicing of the unit ventilators, and whether the town should be paying for this maintenance contract because the school is owned by the town. A motion (Butcher, Hall) to accept the proposal from Trane as written was later amended (Padien, Hall) to sign the contract with Trane contingent upon the superintendent and fiscal clerk clarifying exactly how much money remains in the

building maintenance line item and if not enough to come back to the School Committee carried with a vote of 5-0.

New Business

The Block Island School Athletic Handbook for Interscholastic Sports was submitted to the School Committee for review. Also submitted were copies of a letter from the Wellness Committee to Superintendent Ryan, Mrs. Ryan's reply to the Wellness Committee, a letter to the School Committee from Molly O'Neill, and information from Robbie Closter supporting his idea to have fifth and sixth grade students participate in the junior high basketball program. School Committee members were generally in favor of the updated handbook, but also made several suggestions for improving it. A lengthy discussion was held on whether or how extensively the students in fifth and sixth grade should participate in interscholastic athletic programs and how often they should go off-island during the week to play games. It was stated that there are students in grades five and six currently participating against the recommendation of the principal and middle grade teachers. William Anderson cautioned against an age span of five years for the various teams. It was suggested that the superintendent draft a policy for athletic participation that includes students in the middle grades (5-7).

A motion (Hall, Padien) to consent to the appointment of Lauri McTeague as the head coach for the varsity girls' basketball team carried with a vote of 5-0.

A motion (Butcher, Padien) to consent to the appointment of Lisa Sprague as the assistant coach for the varsity girls' basketball team carried with a vote of 5-0.

A motion (Padien, Butcher) to consent to the appointment of Jim Murray as the head coach for the varsity boys' basketball team carried with a vote of 5-0.

A motion (Hall, Padien) to consent to the re-appointment of Paul Cunningham as the head coach for the junior high boys' basketball team carried with a vote of 5-0.

A motion (McGarry, Padien) to consent to the re-appointment of John Tarbox as the assistant coach for the junior high boys' basketball team carried with a vote of 5-0.

A motion (Padien, Hall) to consent to the re-appointment of Robert Closter as the head coach for the junior high girls' basketball team carried with a vote of 5-0.

A motion (Hall, Padien) to consent to the re-appointment of Roberta Dailey as the assistant coach for the junior high girls' basketball team carried with a vote of 5-0.

A motion (Padien, Butcher) to consent to the appointment of Frank

Nicastro as the assistant coach for the varsity boys' basketball team contingent upon the superintendent confirming that all documentation/certification is in order carried with a vote of 5-0.

Calendar of Events

A calendar of events for the months of November and December was submitted for School Committee information. The next regular School Committee meeting is scheduled for December 15, 2008.

Correspondence

Various pieces of correspondence were forwarded for School Committee information, including a letter from Family Services explaining that the proposed grant to work with Block Island School was not approved.

A motion (McGarry, Padien) to develop a facilities committee to meet the needs of RIDE's application for school construction and appoint William Padien, Shea Butcher, and Amy Doran to work with Mrs. Ryan carried with a vote of 5-0.

Executive Session

A motion (Padien, Hall) at 9:19 p.m. to go into executive session pursuant to Rhode Island General Laws 42-46-4, 5(a)(2) for contract negotiations carried with a vote of 5-0.

Open Session

A motion (Padien, Hall) at 9:50 p.m. to return to open session carried with a vote of 5-0.

A motion (Padien, Hall) to seal the minutes of the executive session carried with a vote of 5-0.

A motion (McGarry, Padien) to approve the Employment Contract, dated November 17, 2008, between the New Shoreham School Committee and Leslie Ryan, Superintendent of Schools, and offer it to Mrs. Ryan carried with a vote of 5-0.

A motion (Padien, Hall) to approve the correspondence to Kathleen Mitchell as written and submitted by Mr. Tretheway carried with a vote of 5-0.

Adjournment

A motion (Padien, Hall) at 9:52 p.m. to adjourn carried with a vote of 5-0.

Marsha L. Gutierrez, Clerk

Date approved: December 15, 2008